**Independence of higher education**

177. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has stated that there is no hurry to free the higher education;

(b) whether Government has felt that there was no consensus among stakeholders on National Knowledge Commission (NKC)'s recommendations to establish an independent regulatory authority for higher education;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Union Government;

(d) which organizations have opposed this move;

(e) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The XIth Plan for higher education is oriented towards several measures for reforming the sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Teachers' organizations are opposed to several recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. Conferences of Vice Chancellors organized by the University Grants Commission have also not endorsed it.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Uniform guideline for minority status**

178. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has replied in the negative to the recommendations made by the National Commission for Minorities, for uniform national guidelines to determine minority status of educational institutions;

(b) if so, whether NCM had made these suggestions to the Ministry in April, 2008;

(c) whether the main aim of the NCM was that the right to determine minority status of a community must be vested with the Union Government, to avoid State-wise discrepancies;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the same; and

(e) whether Government has totally rejected the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion was made by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) for framing uniform guidelines for issuance of minority status certificates by the States to Minority Education Institutions.

(c) and (d) It was clarified to the NCM that while no uniform guidelines could be prescribed as the State Governments were competent to issue such certification, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) Act, 2004 has been amended to empower the NCMEI to grant minority status certification wherever it was proved that such certification had been denied without reason in violation of the rights of the minorities under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

(e) Does not arise.

**Opening of new universities**

†179. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the felt need for universities in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has recommended to open 735 universities by the year 2010 during the Eleventh Five Year Plan itself, in order to increase the registration rate in higher education;

(c) if so, the estimate of expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

(d) by when the target of opening 735 new universities would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In a study commissioned by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for preparing the Working Group Report for the 11th Five Year Plan, it has been estimated that a total of 1072 universities would be required to cater to an enrolment criterion of 20,000 students per university by 2012 thereby requiring an increase of 735 universities. However, based on a student enrolment criterion of 30,000 students per university, the same study has estimated that only 378 more universities would be required. The actual requirement of universities would depend on the enrolment criteria that is adopted, regional imbalances, demand for inclusiveness in admissions for the deprived sections, and availability of resources including teaching faulty.

(c) and (d) Universities can be established by Central, as well as State legislations. Institutions can also be declared "deemed-to-be-universities" under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act 1956. Taking into consideration various projections and availability of resources, during the XI Plan, the Central Schemes provide for 30 new Central Universities including 14 aiming for world-class standards, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 6 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 5 new Indian Institutes of Science

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.